

## Message Text

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ACTION SPC-03

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 IO-14 ISO-00 SSO-00 AGR-20 AID-20 EB-11

RSC-01 COME-00 TRSE-00 SWF-02 SS-20 NSC-07 INRE-00

NSCE-00 PC-10 USIE-00 DODE-00 INT-08 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 DRC-01 EUR-25 L-03 SPM-01 SR-02 ORM-03 HEW-08

SCI-06 CEQ-02 MED-03 SCA-01 FEA-02 FDRE-00 /194 W

----- 103281

O 2724145Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7910

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KHARTOUM 0676

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID

SUBJ: DROUGHT IN EAST AFRICA

REF: STATE 57894, KHARTOUM 0404 (NOTAL), ROME 4168

1. SUMMARY. GOS CONCERNED BY FOOD AND POSSIBLE WATER SHORT-  
AGES DARFUR PROVINCE WESTERN SUDAN AND OTHER AREAS.  
WFP TEAM JUST RETURNED FROM DARFUR SURVEY STRESSES DIFFICULT  
GRAIN SUPPLY SITUATION DUE LARGELY INFLUX TCHADIANS AND SMUGGLING  
OF GRAIN INTO TCHAD TAKE ADVANTAGE HIGH PRICES. OUTLOOK SORGHUM  
HARVEST THROUGHOUT SUDAN UNCERTAIN BUT PRICES LIKELY REMIAN HIGH.  
NEED FOR ADDITIONAL GRAIN THUS LIKELY ARISE DUE INFLUX NON-  
SUDANESE AND DOMESTIC HIGH PRICES RATHER THAN DROUGHT IN SUDAN  
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PER SE. END SUMMARY.

2. KHARTOUM 0404 REPORTED SUDANESE EFFORT OBTAIN WFP AID FOR DARFUR PROVINCE. FOLLOWING THIS REQUEST, LOCAL WFP REP JEAN NDBLET AND UNICEF REP FUAD KRONFOL HAVE JUST RETURNED FROM STUDYING SITUATION ON SPOT IN DARFUR AND IN PROCESS WRITING REPORT. ACCORDING NOBLET, GRAIN SHORTAGE TCHAD HAVE RESULTED INFLUX ANYWHERE FROM 10,000 TO 40,000 TCHADIANS WHO POSING ADDITIONAL BURDEN ON REMOTE AREA'S LIMITED GRAIN STOCKS. MORE-OVER, PRICES MOUNT AS ONE MOVES WEST. SACK OF GRAIN AT SUDANESE/TCHADIAN BORDER SELLS FOR 13-15 SUDANESE POUNDS WHEREAS SAME SACK IN TCHAD REPORTEDLY GOING FOR EQUIVALENT OF 20-25 SUDANESE POUNDS. ANCILLARY PROBLEM REPORTED BY NOBLET IS POOR HEALTH TCHADIAN IMMIGRANTS, INCLUDING UNCONFIRMED REPORTS OF SMALLPOX.

3. WHILE DARFUR SITUATION THEREFORE POTENTIALLY SERIOUS, NOBLET QUESTIONS WHETHER FOOD HELP SHOULD BE OFFIERED SUDAN AT THIS TIME SINCE PRESENCE ADDITIONAL GRAIN DARFUR ANULD BE ONLY LIKELY EXACERBATE TWIN EXISTING PROBLEMS OF INFLUX TCHADIANS AND OUTFLOW GRAIN INTO TCHAD. WHILE NOBLET CONFIRMS LACK OF CARRYOVER STOCKS DARFUL (PARA 4, ROME REFTEL) HE LESS OPTIMISTIC RE OUTLOOK COUNTRY'S CURRENT SORGHUM CROP. NOBLET CONCLUDES SUDAN MAY HAVE LEGITIMATE NEED OUTSIDE GRAIN ASSISTANCE THIS YEAR BUT NOTES THIS DUE LARGELY SQTUATION IN TCHAD RATHER THAN MAJOR DROUGHT CRISIS WITHIN SUDAN.

4. OTHER SOURCES ALSO REPORT WATER SHORTAGES DARFUR AND KORDOFAN. WATER CURRENTLY BEING BROUGHT INTO KORDOFAN CAPITAL OF EL OBEID WHERE SUPPLIES SHORT REPORTEDLY DUE ILL-ADVISED DRAINING OF MAJOR RESERVOIR FOR CLEANING LAST FALL AND SUBSEQUENT DISAPPOINTING RAINS. OTHER AREAS SUDAN REPORTEDLY EXPERIENCING WATER SHORTAGES ARE BLUE NILE, RED SEA AND KASSALA PROVINCES, NOTABLY TOKAR AREA RED SEA LITTORAL, AROMA ON HAYA-KASSALA ROAD AND KURMUK IN SOUTHER BLUE NILE ON ETHIOPIAN BORDER.

5. OUR INFO RE SOUTHERN SUDAN LESS DETAILED, BUT WE HAVE HAD REPORT OF SOME DROUGHT PROBLEM IN GOGRIAL AREA OF NORTHERN BAHR AL-GHAZAL PROVINCE, MIDWAY BETWEEN WAU AND DARFUR/KORDOFAN PROVINCIAL BOUNDARY.

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6. COMMENT: AS IN PAST, SUDANESE SUPPLY DIFFICULTIES MAY BE AS MUCH, IF NOT MORE, DUE TO COUNTRY'S MEDIEVAL TRANSPORTATION NET THAN TO ANY SIGNIFICANT CROP FAILURES. ADDITIONAL PROBLEMTHIS YEAR IS FUEL SHORTAGE WHICH PARTICULAR CONCER IN GESIRA, BREADBASKET SUDAN'S ECONOMY, WHERE AGRICULTURAL OPERATIONS COULD SUFFER DUE LACK DIESEL AND OTHER PETROLEUM

PRODUCTS.

7. THIS ENDEMIC TRANSPORTATION PROBLEM NOTED PARA 6 ROME REFTTEL SEEMS TO US MORE RESPONSIBLE FOR APPARENT INACTION GOS THAN ANY LACK AWARENESS PROBLEM OR OF DESIRE RESOLVE IT. AS INDICATED KHARTOUM 0404, AUTHORITIES MAKING SPECIAL EFFORT TO BREAK LOGJAM ONFORWARDING WFP SHIPMENTS FROM PORT SUAN AND ASSIGNMENT WFP EXPATRIATE EXPEDITER LATTER PORT SHOULD PROVE OF CONTINUING VALUE. AS TO REFERENCE "GOVERNMENT SPONSORED INVESTIGATION TEAM", WE UNCERTAIN WHETHER THIS REFERS TEAM FROM OUTSIDE COUNTRY WHICH WOULD INVESTIGATE SUPPLY AND CROP SITUATION THROUGHOUT SUDAN OR IN-COUNTRY INVESTIGATION DARFUR SITUATION. LATTER, AS ALREADY INDICATED, HAS BEEN CARRIED OUT. EMBASSY WILL REPORT FURTHER ON RESULTS THEIR TRIP AS SOON AS TEAM'S WRITTEN REPORT AVAILABLE. MEANWHILE, FROM THIS VANTAGE POINT IT WOULD APPEAR PROVISION ADDITIONAL GRAIN ASSISTANCE TO NEIGHBORING TCHAD MIGHT GO CONSIDERABLE WAY TO RELIEVE PRESSURE ON LIMITED FOOD SUPPLIES REMOTE DARFUR AREA.  
BREWER

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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

## Message Attributes

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